

DID YOU SEE ZALLAH

YESTERDAY?

CAUSED A SENSATION AT

THE LYCEUM THEATER

ZALLAH and Her Own Company of Clever Comedians, Capable Singers, and Real Girls in the

UNKISSSED ORIENTAL

With This Famous Egyptian Dancer in Her Enchanting Reproduction of the Original Folies Bergere

Buy Your Seats Now. No Advance in Prices

AT THE THEATRES

THE BELASCO.

"Excuse Me."

There has been a notable scarcity of farce in Washington this season; all the more welcome then is that incisively clever product of Rupert Hughes' brain, "Excuse Me," which assuredly will go down in theatrical history as a peer of the best that Charles A. Hoyt and George Ade have given us. The Capital had the privilege of seeing the piece before it was introduced to the wider of Broadway last season, and a household of theatergoers gave it a most effective welcome upon the occasion of its second visit to the Belasco last night.

It is now possible to view "Excuse Me" in retrospect, since it has taken its place as one of the most typical and characteristic of American farces, with every line of its comedy and every angle of its action completely and intensely of native origin. Its Polmanesque fun is more or less familiar to all veterans of the playhouse now, and no longer requires extended treatment. The rarest qualities of comedy—spontaneity and "atmosphere"—belong to the piece in a degree which reflects credit upon Rupert Hughes as the cleverest writer of farce on Broadway, and this is said without robbing Margaret Mayo, Avery Hopwood, and Leo Dietrichstein of any of the laurels they have justly won.

The cast which Henry W. Savage has provided for "Excuse Me" this season presents a few changes from that of last year, notably the substitution of George W. Day for Willis Sweetnam in the role of the porter. Mr. Day's interpretation preserves the humorous fun of the part, and is adequate in every respect. James Lackaye carries off all the honors of the first act with his uproarious comedy in the role of Jimmy Wellington, and Harrison Ford supplies an extremely clever interpretation of the inept bridegroom, Harry Mallory, and opposite him, in the role of Marjorie Weston, was an actress who made a perfect Nell Brinkley impersonation. Miss Geraldine O'Brien, J. Gunnels Davis presented, a Harold Wedgewood, an interpretation distinctly different from that of the conventional stage Englishman, and Scott Cooper, as Ira Lathrop; Marguerite Blinn, as Kathleen Llewellyn; Jacqueline Stanley, as Mrs. Jimmie Wellington, and Josie Hendricks, as the Conductor, were all excellent.

In a word, "Excuse Me" is exactly what it was last year, and nothing more could be said. It has nothing in common with the blasé and self-conscious product which is current coin for comedy on Broadway, and its drooleries are not limited by a second visit. A. M. J.

THE VIRGINIA.

Motion Pictures.

How Paul Revere rode through the night, rousing farmers with his "cry of defiance, not of fear," and how they responded to the call, will be shown to-day and Wednesday in the widely-heralded film, "Paul Revere."

The wild ride is shown with stirring action in this film, also how the Minute men met and turned back the British at North Church, and fired the shot heard round the world; how the British retreat became a rout and how the farmers sought them a running, six-mile battle, from Concord to Lexington. This film is a addition to the regular show.

THE COLUMBIA.

"The Fascinating Widow."

That most charming hostess, "The Fascinating Widow," in the person of the truly remarkable Julian Eltinge, held her New Year's reception at the Columbia yesterday afternoon and evening, where the capacity audience which greeted her united in the opinion that no more attractive or entertaining personage could have been selected to appear as the initial attraction of the good year 1912. In short, "The Fascinating Widow" not only repeated but added to the excellent impression created on her former visit to Washington as being a most unusual and altogether charming entertainment.

So much has been written about Mr. Eltinge, his make-up, his dazzling gown, his voice, and all these little touches that aid in making him appear as a woman among women, it seems only necessary to say that he seems to improve with each appearance. To see him as Hal Blake, the rollicking college boy, in the first few minutes of the first act and then as the heart-breaking Mrs. Monte, one not in the secret would never even remember the two.

Hal Blake, athletic hero of the college, is very much in love with Margaret Lettingwell; but, was he to him, for Mamma Lettingwell has other plans for the fair Margaret. In fact, she has decided that Margaret must marry one Oswald Weston, who is far from being anybody's pleasing person, even though, according to no less a person than the college chaplain, a great student. Hal has a little static encounter with him, and finds that to striking a man wearing glasses he has booked himself for some serious trouble. And then the fun starts. Shall he run away, as devised by his good friend, Lankton Wells, the college trainer, a slinky and very amusing fat man, and leave Margaret to Oswald, the grumpy, heavy-lidded, fat, stay right on the ground and appear as the fascinating Mrs. Monte. He does, and you can readily imagine the complications.

Mrs. Monte upsets the college, is made chaste over by the girls, and has all of the men proposing to her, including Oswald, while accommodating Tullih Lettingwell stands behind a convenient screen and takes flashlights of the whole performance. "Shoo" also undermines the decorous demeanor of Mamma Lettingwell and Dr. Watts, the chaplain, by means of a punch bowl into which have been poured several "stinks." And this punch bowl scene is one of the funniest since that famous one in "Marcella." With the aid of the incriminating flashlights everything is straightened out satisfactorily, and Mrs. Monte, suddenly appearing as Hal Blake, leads Margaret to the altar.

With the exception of Miss Winona Winter, who makes an attractive Margaret, Mr. Eltinge is supported by practically the same cast as when last seen here. Edward Garvie gives the same ludicrous performance as Lankton, as does Charles W. Butler as Dr. Watts. James Spittawood does well as Tullih and Gilbert Douglas is excellent as Oswald.

CHASE'S.

Polite Vaudeville.

Chase's did not have a rival show in the President's New Year's reception. Eight thousand persons swarmed to the White House, but there were enough well-wishers left to pack the popular playhouse and applaud every act of a well-selected bill.

The headliner is May Tully in a one-act comedy of divorce life in Reno, Nev., entitled "The Battle Cry for Freedom." Miss Tully plays the role of Mrs. Robert Smith, who is seeking a release from marital ties, at her best, while Robert Love, as a gay young man about town, and Frances Carson, as another would-be divorcee, kept their audience in an uproar. Jess Keppler, as a bellhop, also lends material aid in making the sketch a winner. The scene is laid in a Reno hotel and many complications cause continual rounds of laughter.

The Great Lorch family present thrilling feats in hipposwifts varieties. Billy Gould and Belle Ashby offer bits of tuneful and timely topics interspersed with merry songs, jests, and stories, and were warmly applauded.

Comedians come small and tall and long and short, but little Lord Robert is a diminutive entertainer, put himself in a class by himself by his unique act, which is full of good humor, song bits and comical dances. Ed Norton, who needs no introduction to Chase's audience, is back for his annual dispensing of songs scintillating with mirth.

Caroline Franklin and William Wilson scored in a spicy comedy entitled "A Club Woman." The plot is based on a wife's love for club life and an unappreciative husband. They are ably assisted by Frank R. Russell, as the husband's chum, who brings the doves of peace into the household.

Vittorio and Georgeina, "the up-to-date dance boys," were amusing, and the photophone, showing international events, concluded the bill.

THE NEW LYCEUM.

"Zallah's Own Company."

Before a holiday audience that packed the New Lyceum to the doors, Zallah, the Oriental dancer, and her company of merry-makers, sang and danced themselves into a fever yesterday afternoon. The show, without Zallah, would be entertaining in itself, but with the addition of such an artist, the show is well-nigh irresistible, and the audience voiced its approval by numerous cheers.

There is much in the dancing of Zallah that is seldom found in the usual run of burlesque Oriental dancers, and her work at no time gave the slightest semblance of vulgarity. Her every movement was the essence of grace, and the weird Oriental music added much to the effectiveness of her terpsichorean movements.

The entire performance was one of perfect balance, and the work of the comedians and principal women was of a high order. The chorus was becomingly swayed and executed the various dances with a vim and dash that was refreshing. The opening burlesque, "A Dream Rehearsal at the Folies Bergere," was a striking reproduction of the well-known New York report of that name. The closing farce, "The Unkissed Oriental," was purely a vehicle designed to exploit the art of Zallah. That it accomplished its purpose was attested by the hearty applause.

The first part gives like Wall a chance to introduce his stage scene during a rehearsal, and as the property man he is clever. With different ones taking the parts of the principals of the Folies Bergere company, the other members of the company give a good account of themselves. May Rose and May Belle sang several songs that took well with the audience. Leathie Keeney was good, as was Harry Bentley as the musical director and Tom Barrett as stage manager.

In the olio were several acts above the ordinary. Among the best were Barrett and Belle in "The Suffragette," Harry Bentley and his two dancers, Mile, Vortex, in an aerial act, and Mae Rose, singing popular songs.

The chorus is pretty, and have plenty of good costumes to wear, and know how to wear them, as well as how to sing and dance.

THE COSMOS.

Vaudeville.

One of the rarest elements in vaudeville is novelty, and it was abundantly in evidence at the Cosmos Theater yesterday, when Prof. Wesley's troupe of trained sea lions made their first appearance in the city, before a typical New Year's crowd, and scored a huge hit. Displaying agility which was almost miraculous, the sea lions showed juggling and balancing feats of a high order, and bitumen, the star of the troupe, became a sensation with the audience, which filled the playhouse to overflowing.

The management more than made good on its promise to maintain the standard of its holiday bill, and the bill was almost the all-star variety. The Raki troupe, of Japanese acrobats, gave a whirlwind exhibition of Oriental acrobatics; the Musical Lorettes revealed in some highly scintillating and bizarre melodic effects, culminating in an effective climax; the Japanese acrobats gave a whirlwind exhibition of Oriental acrobatics; the Musical Lorettes revealed in some highly scintillating and bizarre melodic effects, culminating in an effective climax.

IMPERIAL.

Vaudeville.

MacDonald, "the man who defies the laws of science," is a headline attraction at the Imperial Theater this week and appears in an electric act which was accorded a most enthusiastic reception from the capacity audience which filled the house yesterday. MacDonald presents an electric act, in which he demonstrates the power of electricity, and shows it passing through the human body.

Next in importance is "The Claim Agent," a clever and unusual little comedy sketch by Conboy and Wayne. Each cleverly interprets several different characters. The story deals with the attempt of a waitress to make a car company pay her false damages. It is amusing as well as a good moral lesson well administered. Green and Parker, two clever entertainers, with songs and dances, won their share of the generous applause, while Miss Leslie Thurston, "the telephone girl," presented a funny and dainty act. She is a clever performer and made a decided hit. Fenell and Tyson, artists with their voices and feet, presented a combination of singing,

dancing, and talking which was well received. The Imperial feature photo plays are especially good this week.

THE GAYETY THEATER.

"The Bohemian Show."

As a New Year's offering, this popular house started off the year with one of the brightest shows of the season and one which has a plot that is distinct. The cast is composed of clever entertainers, and they pleased the audience.

The Watson sisters, Kitty and Fanny, are the bright lights of the performance. Their work is of the highest class and their songs good to listen to. Harry I. Fraser plays his part extremely well. Leo Harrell is here again, as popular as ever. Albert Reed, as Abney Maboon, plays the best character part seen here for some time. Billy Betts, Theo Mats, Janet Knox, and Doris Thayer complete the cast.

Between the acts the Watson sisters gave several songs, and Charlie Falk sang illustrated songs in a beautiful lyric tenor, which were enjoyed.

THE COLONIAL.

"Cladarella" in Motion Pictures.

An exceptionally attractive motion picture bill is offered at the Colonial this week, with the charming fairy tale, "Cladarella," as the attraction. Miss Mabel Taliferro, one of the leading actresses of the American stage, whose charming work in "Dolly of the Circus" is well known in Washington, is entrusted with the leading role, and the interpreting cast of players is throughout of the highest caliber. The tale is unfolded in three reels, full of dramatic action and of rich scenic effect.

CONVENTION HALL RINK.

The big rink at Convention Hall was crowded to the utmost yesterday afternoon and last night with a merry throng of skaters. The enlarged skating area, new skates, excellent music, and new floor, attracted hundreds of people, both old and young. At the matinee yesterday many had to be turned away, as all of the 2,500 pairs of skates were in use.

The management has guarded against a repetition of this circumstance by placing a hurry-up order for several hundred additional pairs of skates.

Last night there was a championship one-mile race, won by Mr. H. Colton. Wednesday night has been set aside as ladies' night, when every lady, accompanied by a gentleman, will be admitted free.

The grand masquerade on skates will be held January 10. Prizes will be awarded for the handsomest and most grotesque costumes. The rink will be open every afternoon and night. Free instruction is given to beginners by competent instructors.

\$150,000 Fire at Baltimore.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 1.—An unusually spectacular fire occurred this morning in the fertilizer factory of the D. E. Martin Company, proprietors of the Union Stock Yards, and before flames, which responded to three alarms, could extinguish the flames, it had swept away the entire building in which the fertilizer was stored, a concrete building recently erected, and several out-houses, the property of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. The loss is placed at \$150,000.

Ants will carry loads 6 or 10 times as heavy as themselves. The beetle can move a weight 125 times his own weight.

NOTED IMPERSONATOR IN "THE FASCINATING WIDOW"



JULIAN ELTINGE.

Returns to the Columbia this week in excellent musical comedy.

FIGHT FOR SPEAKERSHIP.

"Old Guard" Candidate at Albany Confident of Success.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Edwin A. Merrill, Jr., the "Old Guard" aspirant for the speakership of the assembly, claimed to-night he would have at least seventy-five of the 101 Republican members behind him at to-morrow night's caucus.

Chairman Samuel S. Koenig, of the New York Republican county committee, disputed this with the rejoinder that there are enough pledged members to make sure of the defeat of Merrill.

Steamer Still Hard Aground.

Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 1.—The City Transportation Company's steamship Alpha, which went ashore on South Beach, opposite Vermont avenue, late yesterday, was still hard and fast today, while she was lashed by a heavy sea which threatened to beat her to pieces. The united efforts of several tugs were unavailing in releasing the stranded steamer.

Largest Morning Circulation.

ENNSON'S SKULL FRACTURED.

H. C. Ridgely, of the Torpedo Boat Smith, Falls from Bar.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Ensign H. C. Ridgely, of the torpedo boat Smith, whose home is in Chicago, is at the point of death in a hospital here as a result of falling from a horizontal bar on which he was performing. Ridgely's skull is fractured at the base of the brain.

The boy's father is in Washington at present and to-night arranged for a picnic from the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore to come here and attend the young man.

Ridgely was exercising on the bar this morning when his hands slipped and he fell with great force to the steel deck. He landed on his head, the steel cutting a great gash at the base of the brain.

The forecast of the value of this season's Argentine agricultural products is reckoned at \$1,750,000,000.

Boys' clubs not only in the cane, beet root, and maple, but also in the sap of 124 other plants and trees.